

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 3-4, 8, 10, 13-15, 20-21, 23-24, and 38-42 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An electronic mail (e-mail) system that has: a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information; a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways; and a managing apparatus, communicably interconnected between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, managing an e-mail message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal,

said managing apparatus comprising:

a notification e-mail creating unit creating a notification e-mail to be sent to said second information terminal by use of the text information in the e-mail message;

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message by sending said notification e-mail to said second information terminal;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting a sound reply as the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An e-mail system that has: a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information; a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways; and a managing apparatus, communicably interconnected between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, managing an e-mail message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal,

said managing apparatus comprising:

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a managing unit managing association between the e-mail message and the sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a telephone number for use in inputting the sound information related to the e-mail message transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message;

the e-mail system further comprising:

a caller number obtaining unit obtaining a telephone number of said second information terminal from which a telephone call is made to the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit;

a telephone number detecting unit detecting whether or not a combination of the sound reply telephone number that is selected by said telephone number selecting unit and the telephone number that is obtained by said caller number obtaining unit matches a pre-determined combination; and

a selecting unit selecting, if the detection result by said telephone number detecting unit is positive, the e-mail message as the one to which a reply message is to be made.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second information terminal includes a reply sound input unit inputting sound information, as a reply to the e-mail message, through an audio communication line specified by the sound reply telephone number,

wherein, of said managing apparatus, said sound information storing unit stores such sound information input from said reply sound input unit as sound information related to the e-mail message, and

wherein said managing apparatus further comprises a reply information notifying unit notifying said first information terminal of reply information that a reply in sound information form has been obtained from said second information terminal, based on the association managed by said managing unit.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said reply information is a reply e-mail message.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said reply e-mail message has the sound information attached thereto, which has been received from said second information terminal and then stored in said sound information storing unit.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said reply e-mail message has a pointer for use in accessing a section of said sound information storing unit in which section said sound information is stored.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An e-mail system that has: a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information; a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways; and a managing apparatus, communicably interconnected between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, managing an e-mail message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal,

said managing apparatus comprising:

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification e-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message;

wherein said second information terminal includes a reply sound input unit inputting sound information, as a reply to the e-mail message, through an audio communication line specified by the sound reply telephone number,

wherein, of said managing apparatus, said sound information storing unit stores such sound information input from said reply sound input unit as sound information related to the e-mail message,

wherein said managing apparatus further comprises a reply information notifying unit notifying said first information terminal of reply information that a reply in sound information form has been obtained from said second information terminal, based on the association managed by said managing unit, and

wherein said reply information is web data placed on the Internet.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 4, wherein, of said managing apparatus,

said text information notifying unit prepares a notification e-mail message that contains the text information to be notified to said second information terminal;

said telephone number selecting unit selects a sound input phone number for use in inputting sound from said second information terminal; and

said telephone number notifying unit adds information about the sound input phone number, which is selected by said telephone number selecting unit, to the notification e-mail message, which is prepared by said text information notifying unit.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An e-mail system that has: a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information; a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways; and a managing apparatus, communicably interconnected between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, managing an e-mail message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal,

said managing apparatus comprising:

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting a sound reply as the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification e-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message;

wherein said second information terminal includes a reply sound input unit inputting sound information, as a reply to the e-mail message, through an audio communication line specified by the sound reply telephone number,

wherein, of said managing apparatus, said sound information storing unit stores such sound information input from said reply sound input unit as sound information related to the e-mail message,

wherein said managing apparatus further comprises a reply information notifying unit notifying said first information terminal of reply information that a reply in sound information form has been obtained from said second information terminal, based on the association managed by said managing unit,

wherein, of said managing apparatus,

said text information notifying unit prepares notification web data to which said second information terminal is accessible, said notification web data including at least the text information received from said first information terminal;

said telephone number selecting unit selects a sound input phone number for use in inputting sound from said second information terminal; and

said telephone number notifying unit adds information about the sound input phone number, which is selected by said telephone number selecting unit, to the notification web data, which is prepared by said text information notifying unit.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 10, further comprising an access detecting unit detecting whether or not access has been made by said second information terminal to the notification web data,

if the detection result by said access detecting unit is positive, said telephone number selecting unit selecting said sound input phone number.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said information about the sound input phone number is said sound input phone number itself.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An e-mail system that has: a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information; a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways; and a managing apparatus, communicably interconnected between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, managing an e-mail message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal,

said managing apparatus comprising:

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting a sound reply as the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification e-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message;

wherein said second information terminal includes a reply sound input unit inputting sound information, as a reply to the e-mail message, through an audio communication line specified by the sound reply telephone number,

wherein, of said managing apparatus, said sound information storing unit stores such sound information input from said reply sound input unit as sound information related to the e-mail message, and

wherein said managing apparatus further comprises a reply information notifying unit notifying said first information terminal of reply information that a reply in sound information form has been obtained from said second information terminal, based on the association managed by said managing unit,

wherein, of said managing apparatus, said text information notifying unit prepares a notification e-mail message that contains the text information to be notified to said second information terminal;

wherein said information about the sound input phone number is an address of a web page indicating the sound input phone number thereon or a pointer for use in accessing the web page.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An e-mail system that has: a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information; a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways; and a managing apparatus, communicably interconnected between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, managing an e-mail message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal,

said managing apparatus comprising:

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting a sound reply as the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification e-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message wherein, of said managing apparatus, said text information notifying unit prepares notification web data to which said second information terminal is accessible, said notification web data including at least the text information received from said first information terminal, and

wherein said managing apparatus includes:

an access detecting unit detecting whether or not access has been made by said second information terminal to the notification web data; and

a calling unit calling said second information terminal, if the detection result by said access detecting unit is positive.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 14, wherein said second information terminal includes a reply sound input unit inputting sound information, as a reply to the e-mail message, through an audio communication line specified by the sound reply telephone number,

wherein, of said managing apparatus, said sound information storing unit stores such sound information input from said reply sound input unit as sound information related to the e-mail message, and

wherein said managing apparatus further comprises a reply information notifying unit notifying said first information terminal of reply information that a reply in sound information form has been obtained from said second information terminal, based on the association managed by said managing unit.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said reply information is a reply e-mail message.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said reply e-mail message has the sound information attached thereto, which has been received from said second information terminal and then stored in said sound information storing unit.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said reply e-mail message has a pointer for use in accessing a section of said sound information storing unit in which section said sound information is stored.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said reply information is web data placed on the Internet.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 1, wherein, if the e-mail message, transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, has information added thereto about the sound information, said managing apparatus further comprises:

a sound information obtaining unit obtaining the sound information based on the information, added to the e-mail message, about the sound information, said sound information obtaining unit then storing the thus obtained sound information, as the sound information related to the e-mail message, to said sound information storing unit;

a sound information reproducing unit reproducing the sound information stored in said sound information storing unit; and

a sound replay unit replaying the sound information, reproduced by said sound information reproducing unit, through said sound reply telephone number.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An e-mail system that has: a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information; a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways; and a managing apparatus, communicably interconnected between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, managing an e-mail message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal,

said managing apparatus comprising:

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting a sound reply as the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification e-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message;

wherein, if the e-mail message, transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, has information added thereto about the sound information, said managing apparatus further comprises:

a sound information obtaining unit obtaining the sound information based on the information, added to the e-mail message, about the sound information, said sound information obtaining unit then storing the thus obtained sound information, as the sound information related to the e-mail message, to said sound information storing unit;

a sound information reproducing unit reproducing the sound information stored in said sound information storing unit; and

a sound replay unit replaying the sound information, reproduced by said sound information reproducing unit, through said sound reply telephone number;

the e-mail system further comprising:

a caller number obtaining unit obtaining a telephone number of said second information terminal from which a telephone call is made to the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit;

a telephone number detecting unit detecting whether or not a combination of the sound reply telephone number that is selected by said telephone number selecting unit and the telephone number that is obtained by said caller number obtaining unit matches a pre-determined combination; and

a selecting unit selecting, if the detection result by said telephone number detecting unit is positive, the sound information as that which is to be reproduced by said sound information reproducing unit.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 20 , wherein said managing apparatus prepares, based on the association managed by said managing unit, reproduction information, as a reproduction information notification e-mail message, that an e-mail message which is addressed to said second information terminal, and to which information about sound information is added, has been received from said first information terminal.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said reproduction information notification e-mail message includes said sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said reproduction information notification e-mail message has a pointer for use in accessing information indicating said sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 21, wherein said managing apparatus prepares, based on the association managed by said managing unit, reproduction information, in the form of web data placed on the Internet, that an e-mail message which is addressed to said second information terminal, and to which information about sound information is added, has been received from said first information terminal.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 21, wherein, of said managing apparatus,

said text information notifying unit prepares a notification e-mail message that contains the text information to be notified to said second information terminal;

said telephone number selecting unit selects a sound reproduction phone number for use in reproducing sound on said second information terminal; and

said telephone number notifying unit adds information about the sound reproduction phone number, which is selected by said telephone number selecting unit, to the notification e-mail message, which is prepared by said text information notifying unit.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 21, wherein, of said managing apparatus,

said text information notifying unit prepares notification web data to which said second information terminal is accessible, said notification web data including at least the text information received from said first information terminal;

said telephone number selecting unit selects a sound reproduction phone number for use in reproducing sound on said second information terminal; and

said telephone number notifying unit adds information about the sound reproduction phone number, which is selected by said telephone number selecting unit, to the notification web data, which is prepared by said text information notifying unit.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 27, further comprising an access detecting unit detecting whether or not access has been made by said second information terminal to the notification web data,

if the detection result by said access detecting unit is positive, said telephone number selecting unit selecting said sound reproduction phone number, and

said sound information reproducing unit reproducing the sound information to said second information terminal which is connected to said sound reproduction phone number through sound communication.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 26, wherein said information about the sound reproduction phone number is the sound reproduction phone number itself.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 26, wherein said information about the sound reproduction phone number is an address of a web page indicating the sound reproduction phone number thereon or a pointer for use in accessing the web page.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 14, wherein, if the e-mail message, transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, has information added thereto about the sound information, said managing apparatus further comprises:

a sound information obtaining unit obtaining the sound information based on the information, added to the e-mail message, about the sound information, said sound information obtaining unit then storing the thus obtained sound information, as the sound information related to the e-mail message, to said sound information storing unit;

a sound information reproducing unit reproducing the sound information stored in said sound information storing unit; and

a sound replay unit replaying the sound information, reproduced by said sound information reproducing unit, through an audio communication channel established by a telephone call made by said calling unit.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 31, wherein said managing apparatus prepares, based on the association managed by said managing unit, reproduction information, as a reproduction information notification e-mail message, that an e-mail message which is addressed to said second information terminal, and to which information about sound information is added, has been received from said first information terminal.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 32, wherein said reproduction information notification e-mail message has a pointer for use in accessing said notification web data.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 31, wherein said managing apparatus prepares, based on the association managed by said managing unit, reproduction information, in the form of reproduction information notification web data placed on the Internet, that an e-mail message which is addressed to said second information terminal, and to which information about sound information is added, has been received from said first information terminal.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an identification information setting unit providing, if there are a plurality of such e-mail messages or if there are a plurality of such sound information items related to the individual e-mail messages, the individual e-mail messages or the individual sound information items with identification information for identifying the e-mail messages or the sound information items, said managing unit managing association among the e-mail messages and the sound information items related to the e-mail messages and the identification information provided by said identification information setting unit.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 35, further comprising an identification information inputting unit inputting such identification information so as to specify the e-mail message or the e-mail-related sound information corresponding to the input identification information.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The e-mail system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a sound guidance unit providing a user of said second information terminal with guidance by voice.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An e-mail system that has: a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information; a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways; and a managing apparatus, communicably interconnected between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, managing an e-mail message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal,

said managing apparatus comprising:

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting a sound reply as the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification e-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message;

the e-mail system further comprising a web guidance unit providing a user of said first information terminal or a user of said second information terminal with a web page that shows guidance thereon.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for transmitting electronic mail (e-mail) message that includes at least text information to be transmitted and received between a first information terminal and a second information terminal, which first information terminal transmits and receives sound information and text information, and which second information terminal transmits and receives sound information and text information in different ways,

said method comprising the steps of:

creating a notification e-mail to be sent to said second information terminal by use of the text information in the e-mail message

notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message by sending said notification e-mail to said second information terminal;

storing sound information related to the e-mail message;

selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number;

notifying said second information terminal of the selected sound reply telephone number by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification-mail; and
managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message.

40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information processing apparatus, communicably interconnected between a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information and a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways, for managing an electronic mail (e-mail) message, including at least text information, transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a notification e-mail creating unit creating a notification e-mail to be sent to said second information terminal by use of the text information in the e-mail message;

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message by sending said notification e-mail to said second information terminal;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message.

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An electronic mail (e-mail) managing program which instructs a computer to function as an information processing apparatus, communicably interconnected between a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information and a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways, for managing an e-mail message, including at least text information, transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a notification e-mail creating unit creating a notification e-mail to be sent to said second information terminal by use of the text information in the e-mail message;

a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message by sending said notification e-mail to said second information terminal;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message.

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing an electronic mail (e-mail) managing program thereon, which program instructs a computer to function as an information processing apparatus, communicably interconnected between a first information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information and a second information terminal transmitting and receiving sound information and text information in different ways, for managing an e-mail message, including at least text information, transmitted and received between said first information terminal and said second information terminal, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a notification e-mail creating unit creating a notification e-mail to be sent to said second information terminal by use of the text information in the e-mail message; a text information notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the text information included in the e-mail message by sending said notification e-mail to said second information terminal;

a sound information storing unit adapted to store sound information related to the e-mail message;

a telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself;

a telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification-mail; and

a managing unit managing association among the e-mail message, the sound reply telephone number, and a last-named sound information related to the e-mail message.